

THE ALMA RECORD

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF ALMA, MICHIGAN

A MENACE TO MICHIGAN

A report has just been made by the Michigan Crop Reporting Service—a combination of the Michigan Department of State, and the U. S. Department of Agriculture—which shows a most alarming condition, and should be a warning to us that some steps must be taken at once to find a remedy or the people of the state will suffer as never before. There will be real want and genuine suffering amongst the poorer classes, because of scarcity of food.

The farmers never faced as serious a situation as at present and the failure to raise crops is a menace to all the people of the state.

The report shows such a very serious condition that we reproduce the most pertinent facts and ask Record readers to give them serious thought. It says in part:

The number of men that have left the farms of Michigan during the past three years is three times as great as the number of Michigan men that died or were killed in the Civil War. It would require the male population, over 15 years of age, of Lansing and Flint to replace them. There are enough vacant farm houses in Michigan to conveniently house the population of Grand Rapids. The number of farm houses vacated within the past 12 months could easily accommodate all of the people in the city of Jackson with homes.

8.74 per cent of the farms of the State are wholly idle this year, an area of approximately 1,668,000 acres, equal to about five ordinary counties. The total men and boys over 15 years of age on the farms of the State is 230,000, or 82.5 acres to be worked by each man or boy.

These figures are based on a complete survey made during the past four weeks by the Michigan Crop Reporting Service under the supervision of Mr. Coleman, C. S. Vaughan, Secretary of State, and Verne H. Church, Field Agent, U. S. Bureau of Crop Estimates, and aided by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. A blank was mailed to each rural school director asking for a report upon the farms in his school district. The compilation of these reports shows that 18,232 farms are idle this year as compared with 11,831 last year. While the abandonment, which in many cases is temporary because of the lack of tenant farmers, is least in the best farming sections, it is found to be a community movement. Many districts show no abandonment, but where families began leaving the act seems to be contagious until, in some cases, one-third to one-half of the school district had migrated to the city. In the south-central district only 4.7 per cent of the farms are idle, and in some counties only three per cent. In the northwest district of the Lower Peninsula, 19.4 per cent are idle and occasional counties report 25 per cent or more.

This abandonment does not tell the whole story. A large percentage of men on the farms are past fifty years of age and without help. The average size of farms is 91.5 acres, and there are but 11 men and boys to each ten farms, or but one man or boy to each 82.5 acres, with many of these unable to do a full man's work. There are 30,300 vacant houses on farms, 10,000 of which have been vacated within the last year.

Of the 276,000 men on farms three years ago, 46,000 have since left; 20,000 of them during the past year. This unprecedented exodus from farms indicates that city and industrial life has become more profitable and satisfactory than farm life. A recent preliminary survey conducted by the State Farm Bureau shows similar and comparable results, and that there would be a decrease of 15.8 per cent in the acreage of cultivated crops this year as a result. Its report shows that the number of dairy cattle has decreased 11.3 per cent during the past year.

As Michigan is only typical of the conditions found in most of the other states, it is evident that the production of farm crops will decline as long as the present condition continues, and as long as the cost of producing these crops follows so closely the price the farmer receives. With a steadily decreasing supply and increasing demand, the price of food will continue to advance.

The only remedy is a reversal of present conditions through an increase in the number of food producers and a corresponding decrease in the number of non-producers of food. This reversal will only come when the remuneration for growing food crops becomes as great in proportion, taking into account investment, risk and labor, as that of other occupations; and when farm life takes on an attractiveness equal to that of city life.

GOOD ROADS

There is nothing needed more in the development of the City of Alma, and Gratiot County, than good roads.

One does not need to go far in any direction out of the city, or on the city side streets to be convinced of the need of a program for the systematic building of better roads.

When the legislature voted to permit the issuing of bonds for a state wide plan of road building it looked very encouraging, but a new contingency has arisen. There are no buyers for the bonds at the rate of five per cent, which is the maximum, and the money cannot be obtained for road building unless people in this locality are willing to purchase enough state roads bonds to supply the money for carrying out the plans.

Tuesday evening there was a meeting of the board of trade and business men of Alma at the Gratiot Club at which it was the unanimous opinion that the money should be obtained, and the program carried out as planned.

We were patriotic in war and bought bonds even if the interest was low. Peace problems call for just as much patriotism, and also for sacrifice where expedient, and there is this vital difference, we were anxious for the war to end, while we want peace to continue. Consequently we should make peace conditions as good as possible, because out of them we expect happiness and contentment.

Alma is the best small inland city in Michigan, and it will be a much better city when its streets are improved and the roads leading to it are made comfortably passable at all times.

It is by cooperation that things are accomplished and here is a chance for us to pull, push and boost for a bigger and better Alma. It's our city, so why not boost for it and make it the best possible?

The Pathfinder says that the man who started "Overalls" cleaned up a million dollars the first month; and has gone to Europe to see the sights, while the rank and file stay home and work to pay the increased price. The bird made so much money that even "Little Old New York" looked tame to him.

How would it work if the Government would put a stop to shipping coal and sugar abroad and give the home folks a chance to get a little at a fairly reasonable price. If anyone knows a good reason why speculators should be allowed to corner the necessities of life it has not been made public.

The story of the lives of successful men is a story of hard work combined with intelligent thinking. You are writing your story every day. What kind of a job are you doing at it and are you sure you have the right combination.

If you want to be remembered, do something worth remembering and then you will not need to worry about stepping out into the region of the unknown and the forgotten. Real service to our fellow men is the only thing that counts for much.

ADOPT RESOLUTIONS

(Continued from page one)

clared in his immortal speeches and public documents, for the establishment of a League of Nations to prevent war and an international court to adjust and settle disputes between nations, not a word of criticism was directed toward his policies; but no sooner had victory crowned our arms and before the diplomats could gather to prepare and sign a treaty, the partisan hatred and intrigue of a coterie of pro-germans, enemies and leaders of the Republican party combined to destroy the treaty of Versailles. They now say that they oppose the League of Nations, for certain puerile and imaginary reasons, while in truth and in fact, they signed a so-called "Round Robin" to repudiate any treaty before it was signed and called their opposition to Paris to discredit and destroy our President, who was negotiating it. They discussed and condemned the treaty before it was submitted to the Senate and before they knew what it was, and still they ask intelligent Americans to believe them sincere in an opposition to it. There is not a criticism that has been made to the treaty, that honest and helpful service could not overcome and correct after we became members of it, if we desired. If we could not appeal to associates within the League to correct minor matters that might develop in its workings, the right is reserved at all times to withdraw from it.

5. We condemn the Republican leaders for now conducting a pre-convention campaign which seeks support from all the dissatisfied, un-American and unpatriotic elements of our people, appeals to class hatred, pandering to support of pro-germans, who wish to destroy the treaty of Versailles, and international hatreds and domestic disputes not of our concern.

6. We condemn the Republican State administration for its extravagance and inefficiency. No intelligent citizen can feel other than ashamed at the record made by it in this state during the past four years.

7. We condemn the use of excessive sums of money to advance the interest of any man or set of men for office. The Republican party has in this way largely maintained itself in power. No act of an anarchist or I. W. W. can be more un-American or destructive of representative government. For this reason, we rejoice as should all true Americans that at least one campaign for a United States Senator of this character has received adequate publicity and that its leading managers and participants have come to a just accounting with the American people.

8. We welcome to our party the women. We congratulate them that we have by the extension of the elective franchise become more nearly democratic in our form of government. We commend what will soon be an accomplished fact, universal suffrage by amendment to our Federal Constitution, and rejoice that such great reform should be in effect under a Democratic Administration.

Respectfully submitted,
 W. A. Bahlke, Chairman.
 Willard D. Tucker.

SEEK TO COMPLETE COUNTY WAR HISTORY

(Continued from page one)
 turning in the name, that the list may be completed.

The list follows:
 Simonton, Arthur Hartt
 Hapner, Harry
 Brown, Dewey Ivan
 Burt, Lauren Dayton
 Hilsinger, John Franklin
 Reese, H. E.
 Ball, H. F.
 Layman, William Henry
 Barrett, Russell
 Hopkins, Ellis Atwood
 Hopkins, James Wilson
 Lutz, Alonzo Stewart
 Lyke, Raymond E.
 Gates, Francis E.
 Rhodes, Alfred
 Aldrich, Maurice R.
 Fairchild, Ralph Ray
 Fairbank, Frank L.
 Smith, Forest Allen
 Breese, Henry Harrison
 Helman, Henry R.
 Bacon, William Lawrence
 Bittner, William Franklin
 Birchfield, Harold Jennings
 Moore, Harold
 Sadler, Earle V.
 Perry, Roy Lee
 Perry, Arthur Dee
 Sharver, Lee M.
 Woodley, Harold S.
 Keene, Merle Vance
 Allen, Lester John
 Mahu, Edwin P.
 Leonard, Harry James
 Haggart, John C. Jr.
 Hulse, Glen S.
 McCarty, Byron
 McCarty, Leo
 Lott, William A.
 Lewis, Fred O.
 Kemmis, John
 Howe, James G.
 McKinney, J. O'Dell
 McClintock, James E.
 Owen, Kenneth P.
 Nelson, Lewis Herbert
 Marzoff, Clarence Samuel
 Markham, Elmer L.
 Morro, Howard G.
 McFarland, Henry G.
 Rander, Leo J.
 Pickard, Guy M.
 Olson, Martin V.
 Olmstead, George E.
 Smith, William
 Spinnery, Mark Loomis
 Stanton, Perry W.
 VonThurn, Dwight
 VonThurn, Lester
 Parks, Frank Glen
 Thornton, Clark S.
 Trendel, Joseph G.
 Smith, Malcolm
 Willet, Harry
 Robinson, Thomas Arnold
 Lake, Howard Carl
 White, Henry Orsman
 White, Marcus E.
 Wood, Alger H.
 Wilson, Joseph
 Wyatt, Shirley
 Dums, Arthur L.
 Adams, Robert McRea
 Bennett, George

Zinn, Franklin R.
 Wiles, Oliver J.
 Wood, Harold J.
 Walsh, Clarence W. J. B.
 Wood, Archie N.
 Waldo, Lester Truman
 Ewen, E. M.
 Fowler, Gaylord C.
 Fowler, John L.
 Gardner, Cyrus B.
 Garbarson, Amar J.
 Jones, David Henry
 Brown, Ivan D.
 Bornmann, V. J.
 Nelson, Ralph L.
 Couberly, Lawrence B.
 Wolverson, Howard C.
 Davies, Robert C.
 Ingemanson, Edwin Eugene
 Hulse, Clarence W.
 Hilton, Claude
 Meyers, Henry Charles
 Denton, Ray Edgar
 DeKaiser, Louie
 Davis, Charles S. W.
 Dumas, Vernon D.
 Edmonds, Henry A.
 Eichenberg, Joseph O.
 Froesch, Lloyd H.
 Miller, Merritt B.
 Milligan, Guy
 Allen, William D.
 Dyer, James
 Ellison, Chester Whitfield
 Allen, Ray E.
 Freeman, Emery E.
 Schatzer, Forrest Levi
 Wilson, Emil Frederick
 Conlin, Clyde S.
 Grover, Randall B.
 Adams, George M.
 Sprague, Jay Washington
 Creaser, Charles William
 Creaser, Clyde J.
 Blackman, Harley LeRoy
 Beshgetoor, Alonzo Wallace
 Beshgetoor, Willard David
 Beshgetoor, Ray Victor
 Davis, Leo W.
 Carmer, Jay S.
 Cowdrey, Dean E.
 Campbell, Edward C.
 Campbell, Wesley
 Bradt, Armour W.
 Blanchard, Merle D.
 Beverly, Efford Armona
 Burkheiser, John M.
 Boyd, William Glen
 Beebe, William
 Wyatt, Edward H.
 Wilkins, Alfred H.
 Smith, Donald B.
 Rule, Guy
 Montigel, Lawrence
 Montigel, Kenneth Bradley
 Ayling, Glen
 Buckler, Robert August

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including admission and best box seats. (Except meals).

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